19, 25-29 and 34-38 are presented for examination, claims 20-24, 30-33 and 39-43 having been withdrawn from further consideration.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 8 and 38 is noted with appreciation.

The specification has been amended on page 2, line 29 to insert the serial number of the referenced copending application in response to the Examiner's comment in paragraph 4 of the Action.

Claims 1, 7, 10 and 37 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection in paragraph 5 and the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections in paragraph 7.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-17, 25-29 and 34-37 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Madnick et al.

Initially, applicant respectfully wishes to point out that it's well recognized that a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires that all of the elements of the claim be fully anticipated by a single reference with no question of obviousness being present. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present, which means that the reference must necessarily require that such feature be contained in the reference.

Presented below are Applicant's arguments showing why the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-17, 25-29 and 34-37 are in error.

Regarding claim 1, element (1), the Examiner references col. 17, lines 20-28. However, this is merely a reference to elements (a), (b) and (c) of

Madnick's claim 11. Clearly, there is no disclosure, either directly or inherently, in Madnick of Applicant's recitations requiring that the heterogeneous data be treated as "a single data source object" or that the request contain "at least a first method to be performed on the data source object and at least a second method to be performed on the results produced by performance of the first method."

Regarding claim 1, element (3), the Examiner references col. 2, lines 45-57 and col. 17, lines 19-20 of Madnick. Neither of these referenced portions disclose, either directly or inherently, the element (3) recitations requiring "making a determination as to whether said second method should be performed on said results at each respective node or should be performed at the user site after said results are transmitted from each node back to the user site."

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner references col. 15, lines 24-35 of Madnick. However, this referenced Madnick portion fails to disclose, either directly or inherently, the claim 2 recitations that "each of said new requests including code representing said first and second methods."

Regarding claim 3, the Examiner references col. 15, lines 24-39, col. 13, lines 5-30 and Figs. 4 and 6 of Madnick. Again, the recitations in claim 3 regarding the first and second methods are clearly not disclosed by Madnick, either directly or inherently, as required by 35 U.S.C. 102.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner's references to col. 17, lines 19-45, col. 2, lines 40-57, and col. 15, lines 24-30 of Madnick fail to disclose, either directly or inherently, the claim 4 recitation: "wherein a first agent process at the user site performs the step of making a determination as to whether the second method should be performed at each respective node."

4

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner's reference to col. 15, lines 11-39 of Madnick does not disclose, either directly or inherently, the recitations: "wherein a remote agent process automatically executes said first method, automatically stores the results produced by executing said first method, and automatically executes said second method on said results."

Regarding claim 7, the Examiner's reference to col. 9, line 4 – col. 10, line 5 of Madnick does not disclose either directly or inherently that "the results of execution of said second method are automatically returned to the user site and, automatically merged by said first agent process, and wherein a third method is then automatically executed on the merged results by said first agent process." In particular, claim 7, does not disclose the "third method" much less the second or first methods.

Regarding claim 11, the Examiner's references to col. 13, lines 15-20 and col. 15, lines 25-30 of Madnick do not disclose, either directly or inherently, the recitation: "wherein said request is in the form of a script and each said new request is in the form of a script having said format."

Regarding claim 13, the Examiner's references to col. 13, lines 40-45 of Madnick do not disclose, either directly or inherently, "each respective agent process comprising code selected to execute the respective new script with respect to the data source object as it is contained in the respective database."

Regarding claim 15, the Examiner's reference to col. 5, lines 24-40 of Madnick does not disclose, either directly or inherently, that the two databases be selected "from the following group: Oracle database, NT database and SQL server."

Regarding claim 16, the Examiner's reference to col. 10, lines 15-30 of Madnick does not disclose, either directly or inherently: "wherein each respective agent process accesses metadata located at the respective node in the course of executing the respective new script at that node."

Regarding claim 17, the Examiner's reference to col. 10, lines 15-30 of Madnick does not disclose, either directly or inherently, that a "data source descriptor file is created from the metadata at each respective node for use by the respective agent process."

Regarding claims 25, 29, and 34, these claims are not disclosed, either directly or inherently, by Madnick for the same reasons as provided for claim 1 above.

Regarding claims 27, 28, 36 and 37, these claims are not disclosed, either directly or inherently, by Madnick for the same reasons as provided for claims 6 and 7 above.

Next, are Applicant's arguments showing why the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections of claims 12, 18 and 19 are in error.

Regarding claim 12, the Examiner rejected this claim under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madnick in view of Dustan. The Examiner references col. 11, lines 25-30 of Dustan. Note that, Madnick does not in the first instance disclose or teach the limitations defined in the claims on which claim 12 are dependent, as will be apparent from the discussion above regarding claim 1. Thus, even if Dustan disclosed or taught the use of Java script in as recited in claim 12 (which it does not), the invention defined by claim 12 would still not be made obvious. Note

that Dustan's teaching of the use of JAVASCRIPT in col. 11, lines 25-30 is with respect to its use in the HTML code of web pages "to ensure that only valid entries are provided with select forms and that all appropriate forms are entered in certain input web pages." This is very different from and not suggestive of the use recited in claim 12 wherein the Java script is used for the original request and new requests (see claim 11).

Regarding claims 18 and 19, the Examiner rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Madnick and Nierenberg. As pointed out with respect to claim 12 above, Madnick does not in the first instance disclose or teach the limitations defined in the claims on which claims 18 and 19 are dependent. Thus, the Madnick/Nierenberg combination fails for that reason alone. With regard to Nierenberg, the Examiner references Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 35-65, and col. 2, lines 15-60. Note with respect to claim 18 that, although Nierenberg generally discloses the use of an object-oriented format, Nierenberg does not disclose or teach the specific object-oriented arrangement defined by claim 18 "wherein the metadata comprises a collection of data source objects which reflect treatment of data stored in each respective database as a single object and wherein each of said data source objects is broken down into successive class levels. With regard to claim 19, note that Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 35-65, and col. 2, lines 15-60 of Nierenberg do not disclose or teach the claim 19 recitation: "wherein said class levels include a class comprising a System Node, System Server, Data Source Object, Field Desc and System Script.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-19, 25-29 and 34-38 have been shown to be allowable in this application. Allowance of these claims is accordingly respectfully solicited.
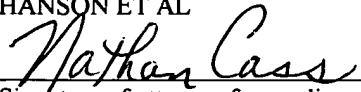
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8